



OFFICE OF THE  
ARIZONA STATE TREASURER

HON. DEAN MARTIN  
TREASURER



## NEWS ADVISORY

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### State Treasurer Dean Martin Agrees with Local Governments Budget Provisions Unconstitutional

(STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX) – State Treasurer Dean Martin today released a letter to the Solicitor General instructing her to file arguments in agreement with local governments who have filed suit against the state to dispute an unconstitutional taking of monies in the last budget.

*“The Governor and legislature cannot raise taxes or ‘log-roll’ provisions into the budget that violate the Constitution. I have instructed my attorney, the Solicitor General, to file motions in agreement with the plaintiffs,”* said Treasurer Dean Martin.

In addition, Treasurer Martin requested that the case be expanded to have the court strike down several other similar violations of the Proposition 108 clause of the Constitution.

Treasurer Dean Martin continued, *“These laws are unconstitutional since they did not receive the 2/3 majority vote of the legislature which is required to raise taxes. Local governments are really just local taxpayers; this was a very deceptive way to try to shift the state’s budget problems to local taxpayers.”*

[\(Click here for attached letter\)](#)

The League of Cities and Towns filed the lawsuit against the Governor and the Treasurer in his official capacity as the custodian of the state’s monies. The law in question required the Treasurer to essentially tax local governments based upon their population, and then deposit those funds into the state’s coffers. The provision was included in the budget passed last legislative session.

As a statewide constitutional officer, Treasurer Martin serves as the state’s Chief Financial Officer responsible for the prudent custody and management of taxpayer monies.

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